

## Post Shorts

### Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Dec. 24 is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.



### Reduced gate hours for holidays

There will be reduced gate operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

#### Christmas

The Harford Gate (Route 22) in the Aberdeen Area will close at 10 p.m., Dec. 24, and the Wise Road Gate in the Edgewood Area will close at 8 p.m., Dec. 24. Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m., Dec. 26.

#### New Year's

The Harford Gate will close at 10 p.m., Dec. 31 and the Wise Road Gate will close at 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Both gates will reopen at 4 a.m., Jan. 2.

The Maryland Gate in the Aberdeen Area and Magnolia Gate (Route 152) will be open throughout the holidays.

### Holiday refuse pickup schedule

Refuse pickup schedule for all residential areas is:  
Dec. 23 – trash pickup  
Dec. 30 – trash pickup  
All Christmas trees will be picked up on Jan. 5.

### Santa visits post housing

Santa Claus will visit housing residents in the Aberdeen Area 5 p.m., Dec. 22. Rain date is 5 p.m., Dec. 23.

He plans a visit to housing residents in the Edgewood Area 6 p.m., Dec. 23. No rain date.

Santa will hand out coloring books and crayons from the installation's fire truck.

### Open Season extended

Due to changes in coverage, OPM has extended the Benefits Open Season through January 2009.

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# CHRA ribbon cutting celebrates its move to a modern building

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The Civilian Human Resources Agency hosted a symbolic completion of its move from the former 5400 block with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its new home in building 3330 Dec. 10.

The former Russell Gym, building 3330, underwent a complete renovation that began in 2007 to house the organization. The move was due to construction of the new Army Team C4ISR campus.

Barbara Panther, CHRA director, hosted the event which featured remarks from Tim McNamara, Aberdeen Proving Ground deputy to the garrison commander, and special guest Karl F. Schneider, assistant deputy chief of staff, G-1.

McNamara welcomed employees to their new building, remarking, "It's a pleasure to have you in your new home."

He said the building was named for an Army captain who was the first Soldier from APG to die in Korea.

"We're here to show off this modernized building and welcome you to this great place," McNamara said.



Photo by APG PHOTO LAB  
Karl P. Schneider, assistant deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, second from right, and Betty Hoover, the longest serving employee from the former Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, second from left, cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the new Civilian Human Resources Agency headquarters in building 3330. Looking on is Tim McNamara, deputy to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison commander, left, and Barbara Panther, CHRA director, right.

He thanked all involved "for making this great renovation and bringing it in under budget and ahead of schedule."

Schneider said that along with the dedication it was important to think about the work that would be done in the new building.

"The Army is about peo-

ple in the field, and you're the ones who make things happen," he said.

He praised CHRA employees for their support of Army priorities that include the "Grow the Army" initiatives and planning for base realignment and closure.

The organization was

housed on Student Drive since 1997.

Panther thanked McNamara, Ray McDermott, Charlie Eckert, Directorate of Installation Operations, and all other planners involved.

"They've done such a good job. We have room for everything we need to

do," she said, adding that employees have given positive feedback about their new surroundings.

"They seem to like it very much," she said. "We're closer to the center of post. We regularly see Soldiers passing by the office which is a great reminder of why we're here"

# Monmouth CG says 'It's time to decide'

Story by  
**DEBBIE SHEEHAN**  
Public Affairs Office

The commanding general of the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and Army Team Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, or C4ISR, had a clear message to communicate in the

Base Realignment and Closure update briefing to the workforce Nov. 21.

The briefing held in Pruden Auditorium at Fort Monmouth, N.J., was made available through live video streaming and teleconference to members of CECOM Life Cycle Management Command and Army Team C4ISR in several locations.

Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via stressed in his presentation that the time has come for Army Team C4ISR personnel to make up their minds about their future professional plans.

"It is time to take charge of your future, and make your decision," he said. "I need your support in this effort and [your] leadership needs to know your

personal plans so they can plan accordingly."

Via recalled when a senior officer mentor once told him to chart a timeline for his goals and to plan ahead accordingly. He stated that it has worked well for him as he's advanced throughout his Army career, and he encouraged those attending and viewing the BRAC update to do likewise.

Included in his update briefing was a chart entitled, "What I want you to do." The chart had several bullet messages including: the need to speak to your Family about future options; the need to determine the information you need to make a decision whether or not to relocate with the command mission; and the need to

See **DECIDE**, page 14

# AKO recognized by DoD as information delivery standard

Story by  
**GINA GRAY**  
Army News Service

Army Knowledge Online/Defense Knowledge Online, having achieved its one-billionth user log-on at the end of September, received a third-place award for improving information delivery and saving the Department of Defense millions of dollars by providing a portal that will become the standard for all DoD agencies.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer John Grimes announced the recipients of this year's DoD CIO Awards during a Sept. 30 ceremony at the Pentagon.

There are 2.1 million users registered on the

AKO portal, which hosts DKO. On any given day, 350,000 people log in to use the services provided by the secure portal. One of the most popular services offered by AKO/DKO is the e-mail tool, which provides the user with an e-mail address for life, and is accessible anywhere there is an Internet connection.

Four billion e-mail messages went through the portal last year, and on any given day, 80 percent of the Army's e-mail goes through AKO. By providing a centralized location for file management, information sharing, and a directory of everyone in the military, AKO has been able to consolidate resources and spending to one specific location.

The AKO/DKO team is constantly working to

upgrade security measures, and portal users can expect new features that are Web 2.0-based in the coming months, officials said. AKO-Wiki, along with e-mail that's accessible from a PDA, and an improved search tool are all expected to become available to AKO/DKO users in the near future, they said, and an improved Army Homepage will debut on the Internet later this year.

"DKO is becoming the primary entry point for most DoD components to share the same infrastructure, security mechanisms, presentation layer and access to date," said Grimes in the award citation. "The team's superb efforts have resulted in AKO/DKO becoming the premier site that provides the tools enabling

DoD organizations to communicate and collaborate securely and effectively."

The DoD CIO awards are based on outstanding achievement in at least one of the following seven key areas: acquisition; architecture and interoperability; information assurance; management and standards; applications (technology or process); capital planning and investment;

and information management/information technology workforce.

The award winners were chosen because they improved information delivery, management capability, and process efficiency while reducing costs, saving resources and enhancing the department's net-centric capacity across multiple mission areas.

# Deadline for CFC donations is today Donating online is popular at APG

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

The deadline for donations to the Aberdeen Proving Ground 2008 Combined Federal Campaign is today at noon. Donors are asked to bring pledges to the APG CFC Office located in the basement of building 30, also known as Top of the Bay, by noon.

This year, for the first time, 19 federal agencies at APG participated in a program which provided a distinct avenue for pledging online. The program is CFCNexus, a privately developed system.

Nancy Sewell, the 2008 CFC chairman, said that the online donation process has been very popular and successful with organizations that had the option to donate online. She said that more than \$130,000 has been donated online, which is 34 percent of total pledges.

"Originally our goal was to raise one hundred thousand dollars [\$100,000] online, so we exceeded our goal," Sewell

said.

She said that at the beginning of the campaign, only eight APG organizations had the option of donating online, but due to popularity and easy use, organizations began to request to have the ability to be able to donate online.

Sewell said that because this is the first year the online donation process is available, the APG CFC staff limited the number of organizations that would be able to use it because they wanted to test and work out any potential problems with a smaller group.

Sewell said that next year, every organizations will have the ability to donate online.

"With online giving, donors can contribute from the comfort of their home, or anywhere they have Internet access," she said. "It is so nice when the majority of people at APG are very computer literate. Response to this program has been incredible. Of course, we miss having paper pledged

See **CFC**, page 4



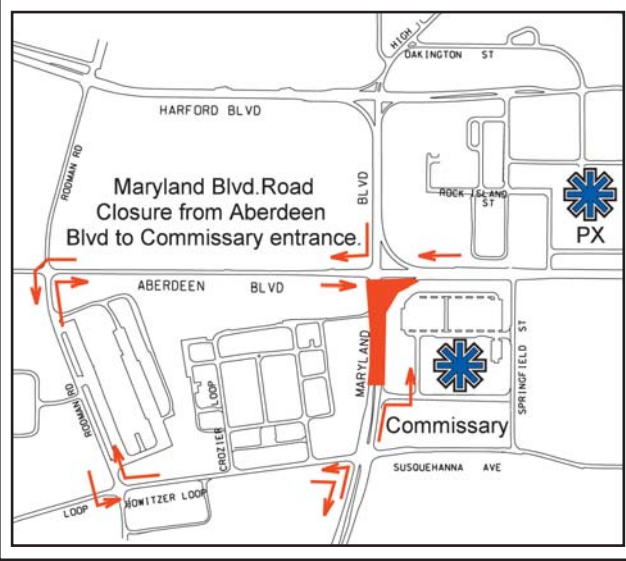
## TRAFFIC ALERT

### Maryland Boulevard closes mid-January

All lanes of Maryland Boulevard on the southwest side of the Aberdeen Boulevard intersection, including the Maryland Boulevard exit lane onto inbound Aberdeen Boulevard will be closed in mid-January to rebuild the railroad track through the intersection.

The outbound lanes will be closed at the intersection and the inbound lanes will be closed immediately inbound of the Commissary entrance. Deer Creek Loop and Rodman Road will be the alternate traffic route to and from Aberdeen Boulevard for this closure.

For more information, call Jerry Norris, Directorate of Public Works, 410-306-1159.





# Monmouth, APG groups send cheer, gifts overseas



Photo by RUSS MESEROLL  
Jennifer Schramm, left, and her daughter Kelly look over drawings for deployed Soldiers to select one to put in a box they put together for husband and father Maj. Matthew Schramm who is currently deployed to Iraq. Items for deployed Soldiers were collected by the Hearts Apart group, an organization for Families of deployed Soldiers and civilians under the Army Community Service umbrella.

Story by  
**DEBBIE SHEEHAN**  
Public Affairs Office

This is a story about goodness and caring, of holiday cheer, of how from small things big things may come and about how to fill a cardboard box with love.

Tucked away at Army Community Service at Fort Monmouth, N.J., is a group joined by common threads. It is called “Hearts Apart” and is a program managed by ACS.

The organization links Family members of those deployed as Soldiers or civilians to other Family members in the same situation. This also includes those who have Soldiers or Family members who travel from home often on TDY [temporary duty for training].

“We meet once a month, the

third Friday of each month. We have activities for children and give adults an opportunity to meet and share concerns,” said Danita Alvarado, ACS Relocation, Deployment and Mobilization Program manager.

The group has recently added evening meetings to make it easier for children to participate.

At a recent meeting the group expressed a desire to support the troops by sending holiday packages to their loved ones and other members of their units or civilian companies. They did not have many resources, or so they thought.

An e-mail describing the project was sent to a list of 20 people. Somehow that list multiplied overnight.

“People just started telling others what we were trying to

do. One contractor asked her employer if she could put a donation box in the foyer of her company. Management not only said yes but opened their coffers and donated two Playstation bundles, complete with games and offered to pay to ship all the boxes overseas,” Alvarado said. “There was so much support from the Fort Monmouth community.”

They got more than they bargained for in the end; 100 boxes were created for Soldiers and three large boxes that included the games were sent to units.

The Fort Monmouth ACS is not a large facility. The conference room is usually used for small workshops or children’s activities, and recently the facility became a warehouse. The conference room and the hallways around it were filled with per-

sonal hygiene products, snacks, games, books, microwavable soups and breakfast foods, pens, notebooks and just about anything else someone thought a Soldier might need or like.

There were compact discs and DVDs, 200 holiday stockings and even decorations for Soldiers to use.

Family members were on hand to pour through the vast assortment of collected items and create a box for their loved ones.

“Do you think Daddy would like this?” “I want to put in a basketball” and murmurs of approval could be heard.

Each box was topped with a holiday greeting or picture drawn by children from Child, Youth & School Services.

Boxes then were piled up in the hall, packages for females on one side; males on the other. There were snacks and a huge pot of chili for the volunteers.

There was a list of 37 names of loved ones deployed from the area who were to get specialized boxes; the rest were for Soldiers in their units.

Linda Via stopped by to offer support. Standing in the crowded room she was jostled by a small boy with a large box.

“Hey watch it, that is the commanding general’s wife; that’s Mrs. Via,” someone said.

She shook her head, “No, here at ACS, I am not Mrs. Via, I am just Linda, just one of you,” she said. She held an impromptu chat with some of the spouses, writing down concerns and stopping to offer support to a Gold Star Mother, one whose child died in combat who had come out to help.

“This is good for me,” said Ida Gonzalez, mother of Spc. Michael Gonzalez, a military policeman killed in Baghdad last August in an improvised explo-

sive device explosion. “Being here and doing this is helpful for me.”

Meanwhile, a bit further south, at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, members of a group of early move volunteers from Army Team C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) Forward had similar plans.

“About a month ago, we began researching things our Soldiers might like or need to have and collecting items to send them over the holidays,” said Bert L. Briney, Logistics and Readiness Center Command and Control Systems Avionics, Electronics Control Unit, Branch Forward.

Their effort quickly spread and donations began pouring into the Gunpowder Club, Army Team C4ISR’s temporary headquarters in the Edgewood Area.

“Besides creature comforts, people began dropping off telephone cards and cash for us to buy things to put in the boxes,” Briney said.

They decided to send their boxes to the 50th Chemical Company, a National Guard Unit from New Jersey serving in Iraq.

Corporations picked up the shipping charges and when the APG Chapter of the Association of the United States Army heard about the effort, they volunteered to do more.

“Besides donating to the holiday drive, the AUSA chapter has vowed to send boxes to the unit every month until they come home,” Briney said.

As they packed the boxes, the C4ISR employees also took time to write letters of support.

“We just wanted them to know we are still here on the job and that we support them,” Briney said.

## ‘Tis the season’ for giving; APG Thrift shop gives back to the community

*APG News*

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Thrift Shop completed its annual donations to charitable organizations.

Every year, the APG Thrift Shop gives all of the proceeds that are made throughout the year to APG organizations that request assistance.

“This is the time of year when all of our volunteers’ and consigners’ efforts pay off,” said Fran D’Antonio, financial manager. “We spread the wealth to some very good causes.”

This year’s funds went to the Perry Point Veterans holiday gift fund; the Military Police Battalion; the Joint Personal Effects Depot for morale support; 5/80th for care packages; AAFES for calling cards for service members in Iraq; Army Community Service; the Civilian Welfare Fund; the 143rd Ordnance Battalion; the Edgewood Model Railroad Club and the APG Soldiers of the Year.

“We are here for the community. Our primary role is to support APG and our Soldiers,” said the Thrift Shop manager Barbara Layton.

“Giving back to the community is what we are all about. If the justification supports helping the military and Aberdeen Proving Ground and we have the funds, the request will be honored,” D’Antonio said.

## Roye-Williams Elementary choirs bring cheer to APG



Photo by RON WOODWARD  
Roye-Williams Elementary School music teacher Cindy Bartlebaugh, center, leads fourth- and fifth-grade choruses in a song during a holiday concert for shoppers at the Post Commissary Dec. 3.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON  
Bartlebaugh, left, leads fourth-grade students in a song during a holiday singing for diners at Top of the Bay Dec. 3.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON  
Bartlebaugh, laughs as Tyler McKinnon, 10, loses his costume trousers while making his entrance as Santa Claus as the fourth-grade chorus sang “Up the Chimney” during the mini-holiday concert at Top of the Bay. McKinnon is the son of Shannon Huffman, APG Housing Division off-post referral counselor.

# APG News

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Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

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# ASAP reminds APG community: Drunk driving is a crime



ASAP

The National Drunk and Drugged Driving campaign has begun.

Jareta Coyle, alcohol and drug officer, and the Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program staff remind everyone that nearly 17,000 Americans are killed and more than 700,000 are injured each year in alcohol-related traffic crashes.

“Drunk driving is a crime, more importantly; it is a crime with thousands of victims,” Coyle said.

Drunk driving costs Americans more than \$50 billion each year in economic losses.

Drunk driving is no accident. An individual has choices — a choice to drink, a choice to drink to impairment, and a choice of whether or not to drive.

Drunk driving fatalities, injuries, crashes and arrests can be prevented

if people make responsible choices.

The ASAP encourages everyone to make right choices and to encourage others to make right choices, using or being the designated driver is a great first step. The result: the nation’s roadways become safe and sober, lives are saved and hopes and dreams fulfilled.

“Make your celebration one you’ll live to remember,” Coyle said.

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, 410-278-401, e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@conus.army.mil or visit the ASAP Web site, <http://www.apg.army.mil/apghome/sites/services/asap/>.

**Tips for drinking in moderation**

- Know your limit. Most people find that they can consume one drink per hour without any ill effects.
- Eat food while you

drink. Food, especially high protein food such as meat, cheese and peanuts, will help slow the absorption of alcohol into the body.

- Sip the drink. If you gulp a drink, you lose the pleasure of savoring its flavors and aromas.
- Don’t participate in “chugging” contests or other drinking games.
- Accept a drink only when you really want one. If someone tries to force a drink on you, ask for a non-alcoholic beverage instead. If that doesn’t work, “lose” your drink by setting it down somewhere and just leave it.
- Skip a drink now and then. Having a non-alcoholic drink between alcoholic ones will help keep your blood alcohol content level down, as does spacing out your alcoholic drinks.
- Keep active; don’t just sit around and drink. If

you stay active you tend to drink less and to be more aware of any effects alcohol may be having on you.

- Beware of unfamiliar drinks. Some drinks, such as zombies and other fruit drinks, can be deceiving as the alcohol content is not detectable. Therefore, it is difficult to space them properly.
- Use alcohol carefully in connection with pharmaceuticals. Ask your physician or pharmacist about any precautions or prohibitions and follow any advice received.

**Remember...**

A glass of white or red wine, a bottle of beer, and a shot of whiskey or other distilled spirits all contain equivalent amounts of alcohol and are the same to a Breathalyzer. A standard drink is:

- A 12-ounce bottle or can of regular beer
- A 5-ounce glass of wine
- A one and 1/2 ounce of 80 proof distilled spir-

its (either straight or in a mixed drink)

For more information, contact Cindy Scott, ASAP prevention coordinator, 410-278-4013 or e-mail Cynthia.Scott1@conus.army.mil.

*(Editor’s note: Moderation information was provided by the Alcohol Problems & Solutions Web site, <http://www2.potsdam.edu/hansondj/AlcoholEquivalence.html>.)*



# Commentary: The ‘gift’ of freedom

By  
**BILL ARMSTRONG**  
*APG Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement Division*

A couple of weeks ago an old Aberdeen Proving Ground fishing buddy of mine, Nick Melcarek, now retired and living the good life in Florida, stopped by the office to say hello before heading back to his villa in the ‘Sunshine State.’

Seeing how it was lunch time and it was also my birthday, I exercised my prerogative and threw caution to the wind, taking him and my Edge-wood Area guys over to the Mess Hall for lunch with the troops. It makes me feel young again, sitting around and chatting with our Soldiers about hunting and fishing.

Anyway, a few days later, Nick called, rubbing it in, telling me he was back in Florida and that the temperature was a balmy 74 degrees Fahrenheit.

Now if you don’t know Nick, you’re missing out. He and I had a couple of fishing adventures up in the Quebec wilderness years ago, and he’s one of those people that tells it just like it is. There’s no mistakin’ with Nick...he’s got his feet on the ground, and what you see is what you get.

Well sir, we got to talking about the lunch we had with the Soldiers

and what a joy that was, and one thing sorta led to another. Before long, we were talking about the holi-days and complaining about how the Christmas spirit and the giving of gifts had become so commercialized.

That’s when Nick popped up and said, “You really wanna know something? Talk about gifts...think about this for a minute. Those Soldiers, the ones we had lunch with, are right now giving us the gift of freedom--heading out into harm’s way just so that we can be safe with our Families and friends at Christmas time.”

“Yep,” I said, thinking about what he’d said. “You’re right. I just never thought about it like that before.”

“I don’t want to sound like I’m preachin’ or something, but those Soldiers are all that stands between us and the fanatics who want to tear this country down...us, and everything else that’s good in this world of ours. Ponder on that for a minute,” Nick said.

“Nope,” I replied, “you hit the nail right on the head.”

“A long time ago,” Nick continued, “back when I was still working up there at APG, I heard one of the guys say that when a Soldier puts on that uniform, for all intents and purposes, they’re signing over to us a blank check. No reservations, no con-

ditions: ‘Here I am! I have answered your call. Do with me what you will.’ That’s a hell of a gift, ain’t it?”

Well, after we said good-bye and hung up, I got to studying on what he’d said, and it kinda stuck with me.

And then last night, while I was standing out on the porch at the EA police station listening to the Soldiers doing a cadence count as they marched off in formation to school, I thought long and hard about the “blank check” thing, and it really hit home. Without their bravery and sacrifice and their love for this country, where would we be today? Like most, I don’t want to even think about it. Truly, I am humbled by their gift.

I remember years ago my mother fussing at me and reminding me that I needed sit down and write a note to those who’d given me a gift at Christmas time, telling me, “It’s important to always say thank you.”

And so to Mike and his Pa from Kansas, and to all of the brave men and women in the military proudly serving our nation in this time of peril, I say with heart-felt appreciation, “Thank You” for your precious gift. It is my wish that you all come back safe and sound, and that you and your Families have a lovely and meaningful Christmas.

May God bless America.

## CFC

### *From front page*

es because we don’t get as many visitors per week coming in with their paper-work. This gives us more time to work on different special events and to write stories for *APG News*.”

Ruth Forrest, U.S. Army Research Laboratory CFC Campaign coordinator, said that the online option was very popular for ARL employees.

“Many people used the online option rather than the paper pledge, and it saved a lot of time,” Forrest said. “People were hesitant at

first, but then as they began using it, they told others that it was user friendly and straight forward, and the process became popular by word of mouth.”

Forrest said that one military employee liked donating online so much that he sent an e-mail to all military personnel who work for ARL, encouraging them to try donating online.

Forrest added that using the online option helped cut down on mistakes, which ultimately made the process go much smoother.

The CFCNexus program provided benefits to all aspects of the CFC to include:

**Searchable database**-Includes a searchable CFC Contributor Guide, allowing employees to search a variety of ways to find charitable organizations they would like to designate their dollars.

**More accurate pledging**-Validates the five digit code entered, ensuring that only valid codes are used. In addition, all calculations are done electronically, ensuring that the biweekly or monthly allotment equals the annual total, as well as ensuring that the amounts designated equal the total amounts pledged.

**Data management**-Provides a variety of ways to manage CFC data. This mon-

itors trends, determines distribution of pledges, and directly downloads pledge information into the pledge collection and distribution system.

Sewell said that the ultimate goal is to get the majority of people to donate online so that the CFC can cut down on the amount of books that are published each year, which will significantly cut down on costs for the CFC.

Sewell said that Michael Graziano, who works for Directorate of Information Management and is this year’s CFC vice chair, is in charge of the test program for online pledging.

Sewell said that unfortunately, even though the campaign was extended a week, it is likely that the campaign will not reach its internal goal of \$450,000. She said that the slow economy has definitely had a negative effect on donations this year. She said that next year she would like to see more people contributing to the CFC, and that even a small donation can help when it is added to other donations.

“I mainly want to stress how generous the people who supported CFC have been,” Sewell said. “About one thousand one hundred and fifty donors [1,150] are responsible for three hundred and eighty thousand dollars [\$380,000], but there are

more than eleven thousand [11,000] Soldiers and federal employees on post. Assuming that everyone would actually use the payroll option, the figures could be so different. If eleven thousand [11,000] employees gave five dollars [\$5] once that would be fifty five thousand dollars [\$55,000]. But multiply that by 26 pay weeks and it would be one million four hundred and thirty thousand dollars [\$1,430,000] or an individual [civilian] donation of one hundred and thirty dollars [\$130] a year. Probably would never happen, but imagine if APG was giving more than a million dollars [\$1,000,000] to charity instead of four hundred fifty thousand [\$450,000].

“I realize there are people who must budget to the penny to make ends meet, but many others could spare five dollars [\$5] every other week. It is the thought that counts, and compounding donations works wonders.

“It has been a real pleasure working with so many hard working people who have gone beyond their comfort zone to ask their fellow employees to give to the CFC. All of you have truly helped “Light the Way” this year,” Sewell said.

For more information, visit the APG CFC office, e-mail [CFC@apg.mil](mailto:CFC@apg.mil), or call 410-278-9917.



# Chapel News

## Holiday worship services through Jan. 1



### Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)

<b>Catholic</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.
Thur., Dec. 25	Christmas mass with Nativity Pageant	9 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	8:45 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6:30 p.m.
<b>Protestant</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	10:15 a.m.
<b>Gospel</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Worship	12 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	12 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve Watch Night Service	10 p.m.

### Edgewood Area

<b>Catholic</b>		
Sat., Dec. 20	Holiday dinner	5:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 20	Post Stable Liturgy	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.
Thu., Dec. 25	Christmas mass	11:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	10:45 a.m.
Thur., Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10 a.m.
<b>Protestant</b>		
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	9:15 a.m.

*Please note: The Candlelight Service is ecumenical on Wed., 7 p.m., Dec. 24 at the Main Post Chapel. Everyone is welcome.*

## Commentary: A wonder full season

By  
**CHAPLAIN (LT COL)  
JEFF ZUST**  
*RDECOM Command Chaplain*

“The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:1

I was always a fan of the TV show Columbo – the detective who saw the big picture by finding the truth in the small details.

That’s how I discovered the wonder of the holidays – through the eyes of my young son who would light up with joy when he saw a string of bulbs shining in the night. He had a word for them – “Christmas.” If he saw a string of lights turned on, it was “Christmas” even if the calendar said “July.”

It wasn’t the gifts, it was the presence of small lights that made the whole season special. Matt stared at the bulbs, and the rest of the season grew with him.

Walter Isaacson, the CEO of the Aspen Institute, finishes his biography of Albert Einstein with the story that Einstein struggled to the end of his life to find his elusive unified theory of the universe. He passed away peacefully in his sleep next to his notes containing some last minute equations that he, “hoped might get him and the rest of us just a little step closer to the spirit manifest in the laws of

the universe.” He started with the particles and grew from there.

John makes that point about God – we don’t solve his existence and then discover his presence in our lives. Just the opposite, we begin to discover his presence in the small places of our lives and work our way up.

Have you ever noticed how a small light defines a dark room, not the opposite? John tells us that’s how God works – a light defining a dark place so that all may see.

Many religions and cultures have celebrations during this month – Solstice, Hanukkah, Hiijra, Kwanzaa and Christmas. The celebrations aren’t the same, but the common values celebrated--renewal, redemption, community, purpose, joy, freedom, love--generate both hope and faith and point to the presence of a light shining in our midst.

In 1897, an 8-year-old

named Virginia O’Hanlon wrote a letter to the New York Sun asking if there was a Santa Claus, because, “Papa says if you see it in the Sun, it is so.”

Editor Francis P. Church answered her question, “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus; because the ideals that he represents exist in the hearts of all people, and even their absence prove his existence by the hope and faith they create in human hearts.”

John, Matt, Einstein and Church invite all of us to consider a creator who is greater than the fragmented world that we experience and who is independently present in the details of our lives and shining in the darkness.

Matt is 27 years old now, and it is my prayer that he never stop getting excited and filled with wonder by the light. I pray we don’t either. It is a place to begin, as we grow.

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas.

**POST SHORTS**

**Closures on APG**

The APG Army Education Center will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 4, 2009. The Education Center will reopen Jan. 5.

Anyone wishing to add their closure to this list needs to send an e-mail to [debi.horne@us.army.mil](mailto:debi.horne@us.army.mil) so that it can be posted in the last *APG News* for 2008 to be distributed Dec. 24. There is no newspaper distribution Dec. 31.

Changes will apply to Federal Employees Health Benefits, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance and the Flexible Spending Account.

Any belated changes will be retroactive to Jan. 4, 2009, for FEHB and Jan. 1, 2009, for FEDVIP and FSA.

Any future coverage changes will be forwarded upon receipt.

For more information, call Teri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331, or e-mail [teri-wright@us.army.mil](mailto:teri-wright@us.army.mil).

**Garrison HHC holds coat, outerwear drive**

The Garrison Headquarters and Headquarters Company is sponsoring a post wide coat and outerwear drive through Dec. 22. The company is collecting all it can for needy Families on post, then whatever is remaining will go to aid those in the local communities around APG.

Items needed include coats, jackets, pullovers, etc., shoes, boots, winter clothing of any kind, gloves, hats, scarves for all sizes and ages.

Used clothing donations should be clean and serviceable. Drop off boxes will be set up at the PX, Recreation Center and Commissary in the Aberdeen Area and the Shoppette and Recreation Center in the Edgewood Area.

For more information, e-mail [mathieu.petratis@us.army.mil](mailto:mathieu.petratis@us.army.mil) or call 410-278-2104.

**Thrift Shop closes for holidays**

The APG Thrift Shop will close its doors for the holiday at 2 p.m., Dec. 18 and will reopen 11 a.m., Jan. 14.

The entire staff thanks

everyone for their patronage throughout the year so that the community can be better served through donations from the shop.

**Dining facility presents Holiday Block Leave Super Supper Specialty Meal**

The Holiday Block Leave Super Supper Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facilities, buildings 4503 and 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 5 to 7 p.m., Dec. 19. During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$3.85 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$3.30 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes: hearty chicken noodle soup, grilled strip loin steaks with fried onions and mushrooms, king crab legs, fried shrimp, chicken wings (short order), baked macaroni and cheese, seasoned freedom fries, lightly buttered corn, broccoli with cheese sauce, hot dinner rolls, assorted salad bar, old fashioned cole slaw, Italian broccoli salad, assorted desserts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

**APG Railroad Club open house**

The Edgewood Mod-

el Railroad Club, building E-5173 on Webster Road in the Edgewood Area will host its holiday open house 1 to 4 p.m., Dec. 28. The HO scale model railroad display simulates railroad operations as they occurred in the 1960s with a variety of freight and passenger trains connecting eastern U.S. cities.

Visitors should use the Edgewood Road or Magnolia Road gate to enter the Edgewood Area. Building E-5173 is located between Black Hawk and Webster roads. A RR crossing symbol on the white door marks the entrance.

For more information, call David Renard, 410-838-5331 or e-mail [david.renard@verizon.net](mailto:david.renard@verizon.net).

**Dining facility presents Christmas Specialty Meal**

The Christmas Specialty Meal will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219, for lunch, noon to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 25. During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine.

The standard meal rate of \$6.35 applies to any officer, enlisted member, and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.40 applies to spouses and other Family mem-

bers of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The menu includes: chicken vegetable soup, roast prime rib of beef, baked lasagna, roast turkey, baked macaroni and cheese, garlic mashed potatoes, savory corn bread dressing, buttered peas and mushrooms, buttered corn, chicken gravy, hot dinner rolls, assorted salad bar, assorted salads, Christmas cookies, assorted desserts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted condiments and assorted beverages.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

**D.A.R.E.® Dance program begins in January**

All ages are welcome to participate in the D.A.R.E. Dance program, 4 to 5:15 p.m., Jan. 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21 and 22 at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2752 to learn hip-hop, jazz and more. There will be eight dance sessions throughout a two week period.

Students need to be on time and be dressed to dance (sneakers and sweatpants, no jeans).

The final dance performance will be held 4:30 to 5 p.m., Jan. 23. Space is limited, sign up soon. Students should arrive for the D.A.R.E. dance 4 p.m. to prepare for the performance.

For more information or to get permission slips, stop by the Youth Center or call Angie Chronister, 410-278-9061.

**MLK commemorative breakfast**

The APG Garrison will host a commemorative breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 7 to 9 a.m., Jan. 14, at Top of the Bay. Albert J. Williams, a Northeast Region school transition specialist, will be the guest speaker. Tickets cost \$8 per person, advance sales only, no sales at the door.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Elwood Veney, RDECOM, 410-436-4810.

**CPR Classes**

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Feb. 18, April 15, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater Jan. 21, March 18, May 20, July 15 and Nov. 18.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail [raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil).

*(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.)*



# Community Notes

THURSDAY

**DECEMBER 18  
SAME HOLDS  
MONTHLY MEETING**

The Society of American Military Engineers Chesapeake Post meeting for December is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the Wetlands Golf Club, Aberdeen. Gary Schilling, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aberdeen Proving Ground Integrated Program Office, will present a briefing titled, "USACE Construction Projects at Aberdeen Proving Ground." Space is limited and reservations are required online at <http://www.same-chesapeake.org/>.

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
AND SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 19,  
20 AND 21  
SEND HOLIDAY  
GREETINGS VIA  
INTERNET**

As a public service to the community, AVIO Productions will be recording and sending Family holiday greetings over the Internet, noon to 8 p.m. at the Shops of Londonshire located in North East, Md. For any Family member this will be a good opportunity to express their best wishes to the men and women in the armed forces. Santa will be there Dec. 20. For more information, call John Malatesta, 877-567-4572, 410-658-4699, or 302-545-4810 or visit [www.avioproductions.com](http://www.avioproductions.com) or e-mail [avio@zoo-minternet.net](mailto:avio@zoo-minternet.net).

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 20  
WHITE TAILED DEER  
SURVEY**

Harford County seems to be experiencing explosive population growth, and not just with humans. So, come help to determine if the deer population of Leight Park is a healthy size. Come get the scoop on poop and conduct pellet (deer scat) counts out on the trails to determine how many deer call the park home. This program will be held 9 a.m. to noon for ages 16 to adult and registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**TWIG FRAMES**

Make fun, easy and uniquely individual frames created from twigs, just in time for holiday gifting. This program will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 10 to adult, 10 to 14 with an adult. The cost is \$2 and registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**NATURAL  
ORNAMENT  
WORKSHOP**

Create unique ornaments using found natural material, while enjoying hot cocoa, cookies and seasonal music. This program will be held 2:30 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult, 10 to 14 with an adult. The cost is \$4 and registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 21  
WINTER  
WREATHMAKING  
SOCIAL**

Create a wreath to brighten your day, as well as a birds', using evergreens, pine cones, seeds and fruit. Work will be outside if the weather permits. Refreshments provided. This program will be held 2 to 4 p.m. for ages 10 to adult, 10 to 14 with an adult. The cost is \$6 and registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 27  
TRAIL CHALLENGE  
TREASURE HUNT**

With map and compass, search the park for treasures. This program will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$2. Registration is required.

For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**HIKE BACK IN TIME  
AT SWAN HARBOR**

Join a naturalist for a discovery hike at this history-packed park. Dress for the weather and prepare to step back in time. Meet at Swan Harbor Aging Center parking lot. This program will be held 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 8 to adult. The program is free but registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 28  
HIGH AND DRY  
MOBILE**

Search the high tide line for flotsam to build an estuary mobile. This program will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 6 to adult, 6 to 10 with an adult. The cost is \$3 and registration is required. For more information, to register or for directions to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**MEET A CRITTER**

Check out one of the live critters in Leight Park up close while discovering what makes that animal special. This free program begins at 2 p.m. for all ages. No registration is required. For more information or for directions to the center, call 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, ext. 1688.

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 31  
"NOON" YEAR'S  
EVE CELEBRATION**

The Bel Air Athletic Club, located on 658 Boulton Sreet, Bel Air, will host the 3rd Annual "Noon" Year's Eve Celebration, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The count down to noon Family celebration is presented by Harford County Kids Magazine. Activities

include balloon sculptures, demonstrations, magic show, BAACyard Treehouse. Crafts will be offered to guests under 12 years of age. Refreshments, a DJ, and special activities will make this a fun way for parents and kids to celebrate the New Year together and not be up too late. "Snowballs" will be dropped from the ceiling at noon. Participants include Photo Jane Studios, Extreme Family Entertainment, Growing Smiles, Point Breeze Credit Union, Wee-cycle Mart, Bel Air Bakery, Open Door Cafe, professional DJ Frank Spears, BAACStage Dance Company and more. Cost is \$5 per person, children under 2 are free. Advance registration and payment is required.

For more information or for registration, call 410-838-2670.

**DUCK DROP RINGS  
INTHE NEWYEAR**

The Havre de Grace Recreation Committee will hold a fireworks show and "Duck Drop," midnight at the Havre de Grace Middle School located on Lewis Lane. The illuminated duck will be dropped by the Susquehanna Hose Company's 102-foot ladder truck, Firehouse #4. Fireworks can be viewed from various locations in Havre de Grace. For more information, call Brigitte Layton, 410-939-2100, 410-939-8300 (fax) or Carolyn Narvelle, 410-939-5108.

*(Editors Note: More calendar events can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Community Notes.)*



# FAMILY, MORALE, WELFARE & RECREATION

# FMWR facilities holiday hours

ACTIVITY	MON 22-Dec	TUE 23-Dec	WED 24-Dec	THU 25-Dec	FRI 26-Dec	SAT 27-Dec	SUN 28-Dec
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	5 a.m.-8 p.m.	6 a.m. - 2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SOUTH SIDE GRILL (Lunch)	11:30 - 1 p.m.	11:30 - 1 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 - 3 p.m.	11 - 3 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	5 - 10 p.m.	1 - 10 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.
RUGGLES	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk
EXTON	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CHILD, YOUTH & SCHOOL SERVICES+	Regular hours	Regular hours	Reduced hours*	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARMY COMMUNITY SERV	Regular hours	Regular hours	Regular hours	CLOSED	Regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED

ACTIVITY	MON 29-Dec	TUE 30-Dec	WED 31-Dec	THU 1-Jan	FRI 2-Jan	SAT 3-Jan	SUN 4-Jan
ARTS & CRAFTS EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ATHLETIC CENTER	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
AUTO CRAFTS CENTER	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
ODR RENTAL CENTER	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
FITNESS CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
HOYLE GYM/FITNESS CTR	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	6 a.m.-2 p.m.	CLOSED	6 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
LIBRARY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
MWR LEISURE TRAVEL	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER AA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
RECREATION CENTER EA	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SNACK BAR	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
SOUTH SIDE GRILL (Lunch)	11:30 - 1 p.m.	11:30 - 1 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
TOP OF THE BAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
BOWLING	11 - 3 p.m.	11 - 3 p.m.	CLOSED	CLOSED	11 - 11 p.m.	1 - 11 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.
RUGGLES	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	CLOSED	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk	8 a.m. - dusk
EXTON	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
CHILD, YOUTH & SCHOOL SERVICES+	Reduced hours*	Reduced hours*	Reduced hours*	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
ARMY COMMUNITY SERV	Regular hours	Regular hours	Regular hours	CLOSED	Regular hours	CLOSED	CLOSED

All hours are subject to change. Visit **www.apgmwr.com** for the most up-to-date hours.  
+CYSS Facilities: Child Development Centers, Youth Centers/School-Age Services programs and Family Child Care homes.  
\*Reduced hours request based on historical data collected from attendance reports and parent surveys.

## SKIES Unlimited

For more information or to register for a *SKIES Unlimited* class, call the Central Registration Office, building 2752, 410-278-7571/7479. Open to all DoD ID card holders. For an appointment, e-mail [stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil](mailto:stacie.umbarger@conus.army.mil).

### Toddler Art

Calling all young Picassos. Toddler Art lessons will be given 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 15 through March 5, for ages 2 through 4 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Hands-on creativity is the theme as children explore, paint, clay, color, texture, and shapes. Dress little ones in old clothes or

smock and be prepared for a messy good time. Parent participation required. Cost is \$60 per student for eight weeks. **Drawing and sketching** Drawing and sketching classes will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Jan. 12 through March 12, for ages 10 to 15 at Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. No class on Jan. 19. Students will explore the concepts of value, proportion, perspective, composition, and foreshortening in this drawing class. Class topics include materials used in drawing

and sketching, memory drawing, contour drawing, grid drawing, tonal drawing and matting of completed works. Students are required to have an 11" x 14" drawing pad. Class costs \$120 per student for eight weeks. **Private guitar lessons** Private guitar lessons for ages 7 through 18 will be held 3:30 to 7 p.m., Dec. 16, Tuesdays, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. An award-winning singer/songwriter will instruct students. No experience necessary. Cost of the lessons is \$132

per student and includes one 30-minute session per week for four weeks. Students must provide their own guitar and also are required to purchase books required for the course as recommended by the instructor. Books are a one-time purchase. Parents can choose which time frame session they want to sign up for when they register their child. Open to all DoD ID card holders. **Brazilian Jujitsu** A Brazilian jujitsu program will be held at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, building 4505, Suite C. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and

Thursdays, Jan. 6 through Feb. 5 and Feb. 17 through March 19. Beginner classes will be held 6 to 6:45 p.m., ages 7 to 18. Through the practice of jujitsu and kickboxing, students will learn the best form of self-defense, how to defend themselves against bigger, stronger and faster opponents and devel-

op leadership and teamwork skills. All students will advance their skills no matter their gender, size or natural ability. Cost is \$85 per student. Open to all DoD ID card holder Family members. Each session requires a minimum of six students registered. Registration ends one week prior to the start of class.

## Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs Available at **www.apgmwr.com**. All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at **<http://acpol.army.mil/employment/naf.htm>** or check out AAFES Jobs link **<http://odin.aafes.com/employment/>** for additional job opportunities.

## Activities/Events

**Talent Show auditions** Auditions for the APG Talent Show will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Jan. 15 at the Edgewood Area Recreation Center, building E-4140; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Recreation Center, building 3326; and 2 to 6 p.m., Feb. 7 at the Post Theater. The Talent show is open to the public; anyone who can sing, dance or play an instrument can audition. Individuals must be 18 or older to participate, individuals or groups. The APG Talent Show will take place Feb. 21, at the Post Theater, 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for active duty military and \$7 for non-military. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or visit Hoyle Fitness Center, building E-4210,

410-436-7134. **Purchase Hippodrome Theater tickets online** To purchase advanced tickets for shows at the Hippodrome Theater, visit **[www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com/groupsales](http://www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com/groupsales)** and enter the password "105MWRAPGMD" for available discounted tickets. Tickets are offered for a limited time. Check the Web site frequently for prices, show times/dates, seat availability and offer expiration. For more information, call 410-278-4011/4907, or e-mail [APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil](mailto:APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil). **Youth Sports Bowling League** The Youth Sports Bowling League is open to all boys and girls ages 6 through 16 (age determination date is Jan. 1). The bowling program builds character while promoting

integrity, hard work, quality Family time and good sportsmanship. Youths will compete on bowling teams, 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Mondays beginning Jan. 12. Cost to join is \$45 for six weeks. Volunteer coaches are needed to make the program a success. To volunteer to coach, call 410-306-2297. Register at Central Registration, building 2752, Rodman Road or call 410-278-7571. **Hoop shoot free throw contest** The Elks National Free Throw Contest "Hoop Shoot" will be held 4 p.m., Jan. 3, at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center, building 2522. Participation is free to all boys and girls ages 8 through 13 (as of April 1) through local, district, state, regional and national levels. The program builds character while promoting

integrity, hard work, quality Family time and good sportsmanship. Sign up the day of the event at 3 p.m. **ACS hosts meeting of Family Information Network** Army Community Service hosts a Family Information Network meeting 6 to 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in building 2754. The next meeting is Jan. 13. This sup-

port group is designed to assist military members who have Family members with special needs. Its goals are to provide a supportive network as well as assist with community resources. For more information, call 410-278-2420. **Holiday golf sale at Ruggles** Stop by Ruggles Pro Shop through Dec. 24 and save on a great selection of apparel and equipment.

The sale includes 50 percent off all Ashworth apparel; 40 percent off select group of Footjoy Outerwear; and 50 percent off select group of men's short-sleeved shirts. All regular priced irons, wedges and bags are 10 percent off. Gift certificates for lessons are a great stocking stuffer. For more information, e-mail [david.correll@us.army.mil](mailto:david.correll@us.army.mil). Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

## APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

### Building 2342


#### Week of Dec. 15

Special #1: American hero with ham and bologna, potato chips, cookie and soda for \$6.25.  
Special #2: Open face hot turkey sandwich with gravy, french fries, potato chips, cookie and soda \$6.75.

#### Week of Dec. 22

No specials this week.

For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.





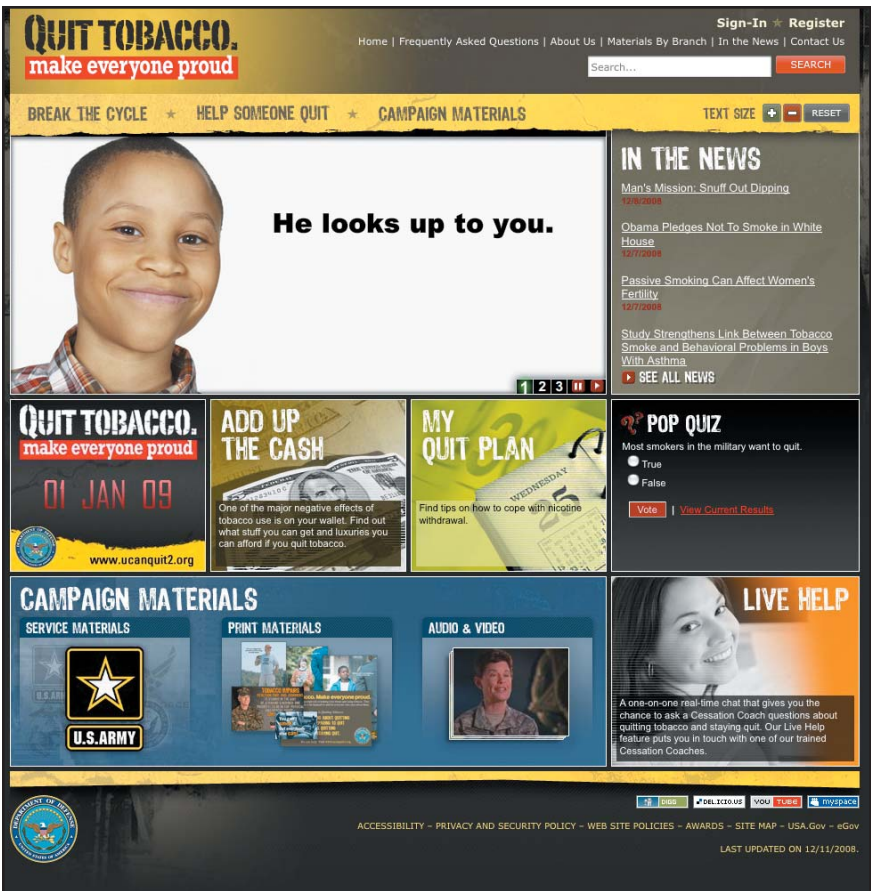


# Health Notes

## TRICARE Anti-Tobacco Campaign shines with Platinum Award

U.S. DoD Military Healthy System

The Department of Defense and TRICARE sponsored educational campaign “Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud,” was awarded a Platinum Award in the Best Overall Internet Site category during the 2008 eHealthcare Leadership Awards. Approximately 235 healthcare organizations, representing a broad industry spectrum, received recognition at a Nov. 11 presentation in Orlando, Fla., during the 12th annual Healthcare Internet Conference. Web sites receiving the 2008 eHealthcare Leadership Awards were selected from more than 1,100 entries. A total of 114 individuals familiar with healthcare and the Internet judged the entries. The eHealthcare Leadership Awards program was developed and first presented nine years ago by eHealthcare Strategy & Trends, an Internet resource published by Health Care Communications. Winners of platinum, gold, silver, and distinction awards represented 17 industry classifications, from hospitals and health systems to pharmaceutical firms and online health companies. Awards were given in 12 different categories: Best Site Design, Best Interactive, Best Health/Healthcare Content, Best e-Business, Best Care/Disease Management, Best Web 2.0/Rich Media, Best Employee Recruitment, Best Quality Communication, Best Newsroom, Best Overall Internet Site, Best Intranet Site and eHealth Organizational Commitment. The Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud Web site mission is to help



18 to 24-year-old active duty military personnel quit tobacco—for themselves and for the people they love. The Web-based cessation information and support tools on the site provide help to those wanting to quit tobacco and those helping others to quit. On the site, users can develop a personalized plan for quitting; get information; play games; listen to podcasts; connect to federal, military, state, local, and online cessation programs; and communicate privately with a trained

cessation coach seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST. The Web site targets both smokers and smokeless tobacco users who are active duty military personnel, aged 18 to 24 years, in pay grades E1 through E4. Tobacco use is higher among this group than among either military or similar aged civilians. Check out the special anti-tobacco page at <http://tricare.mil/tobacco-free/> to connect to special features and resources such as [ucanquit2.org](http://ucanquit2.org).

## Flu vaccine open to TRICARE beneficiaries

KUSAHC

Influenza vaccination is now available to all TRICARE beneficiaries at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. FluMist®, the nasal flu vaccine, is the recommended vaccine choice in healthy individuals for protection against the flu. In addition to the immunity provided by traditional vaccination, FluMist® helps the body to develop antibodies along the respiratory tract which provides a greater defense along the main route of entry for the influenza virus. FluMist® is a safe and effective influenza vaccine that has been used for the past four years. Individuals should not receive FluMist® if they:

- are less than 2 years old or 50 years of age or older;
- have an allergy or history of allergic reaction to chicken eggs or egg products or any component of the vaccine;
- are a child or adolescent who regularly takes aspirin, or products containing aspirin;
- have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome;
- have a known or suspected immune deficiency disease or condition such as HIV infection, leukemia, or lymphoma or are undergoing treatments for cancer;
- have a history of asthma or reactive airways disease;
- have medical conditions such as chronic disorders of the lungs, heart, or kidneys; diabetes, or sickle cell disease; or
- are pregnant.

Vaccination by injection is available to those who are not eligible to receive the FluMist®. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children

### Correction

In the Dec. 4 issue of the APG News, Battalion Chief Steven Hinch was incorrectly identified as Fire Chief. *The APG News* regrets the error.

### LEAVE DONATIONS

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). For more information, call Carolyn Russell, 410-306-0078, fax 410-306-0100, or e-mail [carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil](mailto:carolyn.russell2@us.army.mil).

### Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Donald Adamson	Jerome Hesch
Neoma Amberman	Linda Hindman
Stacey Belcher	Sinclair Joe
Karen Blades	Beverly King (caring for husband)
Debra Bonsall (daughter has brain tumor)	Janet Kipp
Jeanie Bowman	Glenn Kresge
Sandra Boyd (neck injury)	Kimberly Long
Georgia Braun	Richard McKay
Alberta Brown	Frantz Midy
Janine Byrnes	Karen Milton
Michelle Brooks	Deborah Moore
Donna Butler	Marie D. Nowak
Donna Cianelli	Dorothy Nowak
Angela Claybourn	Cindy Orwig
Frank Costa	Alice Parks-Culp
Kenneth Cox	Adrienne Pearson
Joyce Clark	Rosina Poole
Barbara Crossley	Reta Reynolds
John Daigle	Gloria Scott
Carol DeVoid	Donna Sexton
Liesollette Dorsey	Melvin Showell
Meg Downey	Willie Stevenson
Wayne Erb	Lavonne Telsee
Lisa Foust	Gale Thompson
Rita Fowler	Elizabeth Usmari
Gregory Fox	Mark Walker
Miriam Garcia	Joyce Woods
Allen Gregory	Charles Young
Sharon Hardesty	Barbara Zenker





# Sports

## AF Det 1 wins 2008 Commander's Cup

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG News

For the first time, the U.S. Air Force Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron won the Commander's Cup trophy, an award which recognizes achievement in a full calendar year of sports.

The award was presented during a ceremony in the detachment's orderly room Dec. 9.

Donna Coyne, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation intramural coordinator presented Maj. Louie Cumming, commander of Air Force Detachment 1, and Staff Sgt. Clint Hayes, the sports representative for the unit, with the 2008 Commander's Cup.

The Marine detachment came in second and the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion came in third.

In addition, Haynes was named the Sports Representative of the Year.

"We played competitively, and I am

proud of the hard work and participation that everyone contributed during the games," Haynes said.

Cumming also said that he was proud of the detachment's achievement. He said that this year there was competition between the Air Force Detachment and the Marines Detachment, who had won the Commander's Cup last year.

"This is the first time the detachment has won it, and we are extremely proud and happy of our accomplishment," Cumming said. "The Marines and all other organizations were very competitive and made this year's Commander's Cup that much tougher."

"Winning the Commander's Cup is not an easy task or accomplishment, but the men and women of Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron certainly succeeded in achieving excellence, something we strive for in our daily operations here at Aberdeen Proving Ground," he said.

## 22nd Chemical wins intramural flag football post championship

Story by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

The 22nd Chemical Company overcame a drop to the loser's bracket to come back and defeat the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, twice to win the intramural flag football post championship Nov. 24.

The 203rd MI went undefeated through the tournament, defeating four teams, including 22nd Chem., to stay atop the winners' bracket. The 22nd Chem. had to beat 203rd MI twice to win the championship and they did just that, scoring back to back 20-0 and 13-0 shutouts.

Nicholas McDuffie, 203rd MI coach, said that it was still "a great football season" despite the loss of key personnel due to temporary duty assignments and other job-related commitments.

"TDY and projects at work really depleted our team but we hung in there and prevailed anyway," McDuffie said.

He praised the leadership of team players Patrick Thompson, Gregoire Lesperance, Jonathan Friedman, Gabe Chiulli and the units' commander, Capt. Christopher Hardings who coached and played along with McDuffie who quar-

terbacked the team.

"The championship games were hard fought and in adverse weather," McDuffie said. "The best team that day won the games. Unfortunately it wasn't us."

Anthony Jones was the player/coach for the 22nd Chem., which also won the post championship in 2006.

Jones said defense was the cornerstone of the team's success and that the team played "as a whole" despite losing members to TDY and other mission requirements. He said the team's toughest opponent was the Joint Personal Effects Depot and that it was satisfying to come back and defeat the team that sent them to the loser's bracket.

"Our team had a lot of adversity to overcome," Jones said. "However, the players did a great job of executing with what they had."

He named Toran one of several team MVPs who included Joshua Mundy, Courtland Smith and Josef Sanders.

"This team jelled very, very well," Jones said.

He added a warning to other teams for the 2009 flag football season.

"We're losing some folks including myself," he said, "but there'll be others here to keep us on top."

**The following are results for the intramural flag football and soccer post season tournaments as well as the civilian flag football program**

**Intramural flag football**

**Champion:** 22nd Chem.  
**Runner-up:** 203rd MI

**Oct. 22**  
22nd Chem., win; NCOA, forfeit  
Company B 143rd, win; HHC 16th, forfeit  
203rd MI, 21; JPED, 12  
USAF, 26; USMC, 6

**Oct. 29**  
22nd Chem., 7; Company B 143rd, 6  
203rd MI, 7; USAF, 6  
NCOA, 0; HHC 16th 0  
JPED, 20; USMC, 0

**Nov. 17**  
203rd MI, 6; 22nd Chem., 0  
JPED, 2, Company B 143rd, 0

**Nov. 18**  
JPED, 22; USAF, 0

**Nov. 19**  
22nd Chem., 31; JPED, 26

**Nov. 24**  
22nd Chem., 20; 203rd MI, 0  
22nd Chem., 13; 203rd MI, 0

**Intramural Soccer**  
**Champion:** Company E 16th  
**Runner-up:** KUSAHC

**Oct. 30**  
USAF, 6; Freestate, 4  
Company E 16th, 1; 203rd MI, 0

**Nov. 3**  
USAF, 1; KUSAHC, 0  
Company E 16th, 5; USMC, 3

**Nov. 4**  
USMC, 1; Freestate, 0  
KUSAHC, 1; 203rd MI, 0

**Nov. 5**  
Company E 16th, 9  
USAF, 3  
KUSAHC, 6; USMC, 1

**Nov. 6**  
KUSAHC, 7; USAF, 0

**Nov. 13**  
Company E 16th, 6; KUSAHC, 5

**Civilian flag football program**  
**Champion:** ATC #1  
**Runner-up:** Freestate

**Nov. 6**  
AEC, 30; LG Cal, 6  
Free State, 18; AMSAA, 6

**Nov. 18**  
ATC #1, 21; AEC, 19  
ATC #2, 14; Freestate, 8

**Nov. 19**  
Freestate, 17; ATC #2, 12

**Nov. 20**  
ATC #1, 22; ATC #2, 6  
Freestate, 33; AMSAA, 0  
Freestate, 17; ATC #2, 12

**Nov. 24**  
ATC #1, 13; Freestate, 12

## Commander's Cup

The Commander's Cup trophy is awarded by the APG Garrison commander each December to the unit that scores the most points in intramural sports during the year. Units accumulate points by participating in the bench press competition, bowling, basketball, racquetball, dodge ball, 3-on-3 basketball, the deadlift competition, volleyball, tennis, golf, soccer, softball and flag football. Points are also awarded for unit and unit representative participation, division standings and post championships wins. For final point cup standings call Donna Coyne 410-278-3929.



Maj. Louie Cumming, commander of Air Force Detachment 1, and Staff Sgt. Clint Hayes, the sports representative for the unit, hold the 2008 Commander's Cup, which was presented Dec. 9 by Donna Coyne, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation intramural coordinator, during a ceremony at the detachment's orderly room.

## The road less traveled: The world of a U.S. Army Special Agent

Story by  
**COLBY HAUSER**  
CID

There are many reasons why people consider a career in the military, but for the professionals of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, serving as a Special Agent is much more than a career decision, it's a way of life.

"It needs to be a calling, because you don't get to flip a switch off at the end of the day," said Special Agent David Eller, a chief warrant officer with Investigative Operations, Headquarters, USACIDC. "It's an opportunity to be a part of something significantly larger than oneself."

Unlike conventional military occupational specialties, the amount of responsibility placed on an agent is immense. Agents often work independently and with little to no supervision or they may be assigned a mission that can have a significant impact on not just the local command, but the Army at large.

"You are often placed in a position that has much higher expectations, whether it's protecting a dignitary at a foreign summit, to working a murder case, you have to be on your 'A' game every day," Eller said. "The flash to bang time on failure is very, very short."

When considering a rewarding career as a Special Agent, many CID inves-

tigators recommend that prospective applicants really think about the decision to become a Special Agent and to not take it lightly.

"It's a tough job, especially investigations," said Special Agent John Spann, a senior special agent for the CID Standards of Conduct office. "If you are going to do it as a career, you have to be willing to change your lifestyle, but it's worth it."

Due to the nature of the work, little information is released concerning ongoing CID investigations and techniques and much like the quiet professionals of other highly sensitive jobs, outside encouragement and recognition for a job well done is often slow coming or even missing.

"There are a lot of times where the success of a case is announced by its silence," Eller said.

However, for agents, it's their commitment and dedication to the mission that sets them apart.

"Joe Public isn't going to come up and congratulate you every day," Spann said. "It's doing the right thing at the right time on your own...that's what it's all about."

**About CID**

The USACIDC is responsible for investigating felony-level crime of Army interest worldwide. Special Agents are some

of the most highly trained criminal investigators in law enforcement and are recognized Federal law enforcement officials.

During a career at CID, agents have the opportunity to attend advanced training at some of the most prestigious law enforcement programs in the world such as the FBI National Academy, Metropolitan Police Academy at Scotland Yard, DoD Polygraph Institute and the Canadian Police Academy.

"The advanced school and career opportunities are outstanding," said Special Agent Jennifer Bryan, chief of economic crime and logistical security with CID. "From the FBI academy, to Scotland Yard to the master's program in forensic science at George Washington University, the potential is always there to go somewhere to develop your career."

Unlike many other major law enforcement organizations, special agents with CID do not always specialize in any singular discipline, so an agent could find themselves working a murder investigation one week and an arson investigation the next.

Eller said this "Jack of all trades" approach makes for a very well rounded agent, coupled with the diverse assignments and advanced training opportunities\_ allow agents the opportunity to develop a unique skill set that is in

very high demand in the civilian sector.

Professional career opportunities are just one reason special agents serving in the Army make the transition to CID. For some it is the obvious next step in their military law enforcement career, for others it is an opportunity not to be missed.

"Moving to CID for me was just a natural progression within my military career," said Special Agent Harold Van Dusen, an agent assigned to CIDC operations. "I started out working on a PSD (personnel security detail) as an MP and the transition seemed like a good opportunity."

Serving a global community of more than one million Soldiers, civilians and Family members CIDC is always on the lookout for prospective agents and is seeking individuals who not only meet the basic requirements to become a special agent but posses certain characteristics that most successful agents demonstrate.

"We need agents who'll take ownership of their investigations, but the most important thing we're looking for is integrity," Eller said. "When you commit yourself to this profession, the satisfaction often is internal."

"We're looking for a person of character, somebody who is loyal, balanced, professional and

organized," Spann said. He added that agents deal with a lot of the negative aspects of life and with a worldwide mission and an extremely high operational tempo, the ability to balance ones personal and

professional life is a must. Persons who are interested in seeking a career as a CID Special Agent should contact their local CID office or go to [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil) for additional information.

### USACIDC seeking Special Agent applicants

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is actively seeking qualified Soldiers to serve as CID Special Agents. Agents receive training at the U.S. Army Military Police School, located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

**To qualify, applicants must:**

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- At least 21 years old.
- Be an E5, SGT (nonpromotable), with at least two years but no more than 10 years time in service.
- They must have an ST score of 107 or higher (ST of 110 if tested prior to Jan. 2, 2002).
- Have at least 60 hours college credit from an accredited institution (a waiver of up to half of this prerequisite may be considered if favorably endorsed by the local CID office).
- Have a physical profile of 222221 or higher, with normal color vision.
- No record of mental or emotional disorders.
- A minimum of one year police experience or two years of civilian police experience (a waiver of this prerequisite may be considered if favorably endorsed by the local CID office).
- Must be able to speak and write clearly.
- Have suitable character established by a Single Scope Background Investigation leading to a Top Secret clearance.
- No record of unsatisfactory credit.
- No civil court or court martial convictions.
- Applicants must also be able to complete a 60-month service obligation upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course.

For more information or to apply, contact the nearest CID field office or visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil).



# Commentary: Safe holiday wishes from DASF

By  
**BRIG GEN WILLIAM T. WOLF**  
*Director of Army Safety*

Throughout our Army, Soldiers, civilians and their Families are making preparations for the holiday season. Many of us will be enjoying the festivities, celebrations and long awaited homecomings with our loved ones.

As we celebrate the holidays, please remember the many sacrifices of our Soldiers and civilians deployed in harm's way around the world and their Families back at home.

As each of us prepares for the holidays, please remember that this joy-

ous season historically is a period of time that is often marred by increasing numbers of mishaps and accidents. Last year, our Army tragically lost 208 Soldiers to preventable accidents.

We must all look out for each other as members of the Army's Band of Brothers and Sisters, and effectively manage risk, especially during off-duty activities.

I know many of you will be traveling to be with your Families over the next month. I would ask each of you to use the TRIPS online planning tool found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site at [https://crc.](https://crc.army.mil)

[army.mil](https://crc.army.mil) to assist you in making sound risk decisions regarding your travel plans.

Discuss your plans with your leader, supervisor and/or Family before setting out for your holiday journey. Their sage wisdom and advice should be incorporated in all you do to insure your personal safety.

Let's all make this the safest and most joyful holiday season ever by looking out for each other.

I wish all of you and your Families the best, and have a blessed and safe holiday season.

Army Safe is Army Strong!

# Commander's holiday wishes

By  
**COL JEFFREY S. WEISSMAN**  
*Commander, USAGAPG*

I'd like to extend my wishes to all APG personnel and their loved ones for a safe and happy holiday season, and joyous New Year, filled with peace, comfort and service to God and country.

The yuletide period should be a joyous and festive occasion for Families and loved ones.

Deprive no one of the good will of this season by an unsafe act or careless motor vehicle accident.

I urge each of you to observe the common sense principles of safety and avoid the dangers of ignoring them.

Use of composite risk management in each activity - evaluating the potential for hazards and developing safeguards to prevent them - will go a long way toward ensuring a safe and happy holiday season. In this way the spirit of the season will not only help build a meaningful Family holiday tradi-



tion, but also serve as a guiding force throughout the new year.

So, as we enter the holidays, let us revitalize our faith in "Peace on Earth, good will toward men."

I invite you to join me in offering prayers for others in need and extend to them and their Families the happiness of the season.

# Warning to online holiday shoppers CID offers tips to avoid swindlers during height of 'rip-off' season

*CID*  
The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit has teamed up with the Federal Trade Commission to help Soldiers, Family members and Army civilians stay safe while shopping online this holiday season.

As increasing numbers of consumers do the majority of their holiday shopping online, swindlers have taken notice and devised a wide range of schemes to capitalize on the relative anonymity of cyber space.

The CCIU and FTC offer the following tips to help thwart these online crooks.

**Check out the seller:** If you have not used a particular online shopping site, do some inde-

pendent research. Call their phone number to verify that you can reach them if issues come up with your purchase. If they don't have a phone number, you should take your business elsewhere. Also, search the Internet to see if anyone else has had a positive or negative experience with the shopping site.

**Read return policies:** Make sure the online shopping site has policies that meet your needs and expectations. Some sites charge shipping and handling for returns, as well as a restocking fee. Sites with unclear or questionable policies should be avoided.

**Know what you're getting:** Read the product description closely. If

name-brand items are sold at an extremely low price, they could be counterfeit or stolen. Remember the old adage: "If it's too good to be true, it probably is."

**Don't fall for a false e-mail or pop-up:** Legitimate companies do not send unsolicited e-mail messages asking for your password, login name or financial information, but scammers do. Delete these e-mails without clicking on any links, since doing so could install spyware or other malicious programs on your computer.

**Look for signs a site is safe:** When you are ready to buy something from a seller you trust, look for signs that the site uses a secure connection-such as a closed padlock on the browser's status bar-before

you enter your personal and financial information. When you are asked to provide payment information, the beginning of the Web site's URL address should change from "http" to "https" or "https," indicating that the purchase is encrypted or secured.

**Secure your home computer:** At a minimum, your computer should have anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall. Security software must be updated regularly to help protect against the latest threats. Set your security software and operating system to update automatically.

**Consider how you'll pay:** Credit cards generally are a safe option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if

the product is not delivered or is not what was ordered. Also, if your credit card number is stolen, you usually will not be liable for more than \$50 in charges. Do not send cash or use a money-wiring service because you will have no recourse if something goes wrong.

**Keep a paper trail:** Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description and price, the online receipt and copies of any e-mail you exchange with the seller. Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges.

If a member of the Army Family believes they have fallen victim to an online shopping scam,

CID advises to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as possible. For crimes occurring on an Army installation, contact the local CID office. For crimes occurring elsewhere, contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center online at <http://www.ic3.gov>. IC3 is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National White Collar Crime Center and serves as a clearinghouse for Internet crime complaints.

To learn more about online safety, visit the FTC's OnGuard Online site at <http://onguardonline.gov>.

To learn more about the CCIU and CID Cyber Lookout, visit <http://www.cid.army.mil/CCIU.html>.

# Commentary: Shopping for the safe toy



Story by  
**ANN LAUGHTON**  
*Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic*

Is toy shopping in your holiday plans? Shopping for toys can be exciting and fun, but it can also be frustrating. With many toys to choose from, it is important to select safe toys appropriate for your child's age.

You can reduce the chance that your child may get hurt from playing with a toy by following a few simple guidelines.

- Select toys that are age appropriate, and read packaging carefully.
- Select toys that are made of safe materials. Avoid toys made with metal pieces, brittle plastic or glass.

These can break easily exposing sharp points and edges, which can increase the risk of injury.

- Avoid choking hazards by choosing toys that have parts larger than your child's mouth. Consider the ages of all children in the household to prevent the youngest from possibly choking on an older child's toy.
- Once the child has been given the toys, make sure you examine them regularly. Look for damaged, loose or broken parts that may pose a hazard. Throw away any toy that is broken or damaged in any way.

By learning how to choose toys carefully, you will assure that playtime is educational, fun and safe.

# Recommended toy safety tips

*Installation Safety Office*

The holidays are here and the time has come for parents to "make the grade" for holiday shopping choices. Parents and anyone shopping for children should have one goal in mind when buying toys: look for the safest and most age-appropriate toys as gifts.

Jenelle Ferguson of the Installation Safety Office advises, "When parents are shopping for gifts, they need to consider the safest kinds of toys - whether giving to charities or Families - and to check with the Consumer Product Safety Commission for any toy recalls."

She suggests visiting the CPSC Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for the latest consumer product information and toy recall notices.

The CPSC stated that in 2007 there were approximately 170,100 hospital emergency room toy-related injuries to children under age 15. Most of these injuries were lacerations and abrasions, with the head and face area being the most affected.

## CPSC top 5 toy hazards

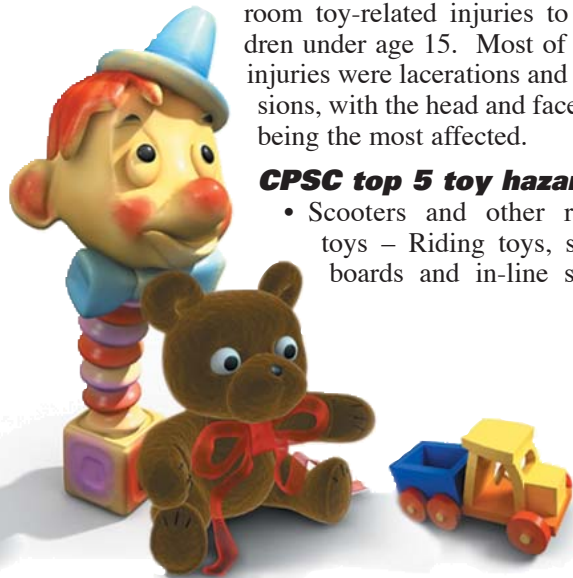
- Scooters and other riding toys - Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates

go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn at all times and sized to fit.

- Small balls and other toys with small parts - For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- Balloons - Children under eight years old can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Keep un-inflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Magnets - For children under age six, avoid building or play sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
- Chargers and adapters - Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

## Once gifts are open

- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they can become dangerous play things.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.
- Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.



# Adventures in driving decision making

## Panic on the highway!

*Installation Safety Office*

"Adventures in driving decision making" is brought to everyone by the Installation Safety Office.

Read the following scenario and then from the options provided, select the best answer. The correct response is printed upside down.

## Situation #13

Imagine you are driving in the center lane of a large interstate highway with traffic on both sides of you. And let's say it is rush hour traffic. Even though you are going the legal speed limit (and then some), the car behind you is tailgating - uncomfortably close. There is traffic in both the right and left lanes. What should you do?

A. Maintain your speed, signal, turn right as soon as possible and let him pass.

B. Gradually slow down so he will go around you.

*Answer A.* This can be a tricky situation, but the best bet is to let this guy go around you to get tangled up with something other than you and your car. So go ahead and "maintain your speed, signal, turn right as soon as possible and let him pass." You might flash your brake lights on and off to tell him he's too close and you don't like it. There are some drivers who will respond to this, but don't expect that all of them won't and you'll just have to sweat it out getting to where you can move over and let him pass.

*Answer B.* Normally this might work, but based on the scenario described here, doing this will slow him down more and might get him more frustrated. Plus it will cause cars behind him to start whipping around you both, pinning him in behind you. Your decision to "gradually slow down so he will go around you" isn't the best way to handle the situation. To begin with, as described here, there is traffic on both sides of you, so he can't go any place anyway. He's already shown a disregard for his own safety, and if you slow down, you're already pushing an already bad situation. Let him get around you by getting out of his way as you can. So, "maintain your speed, signal, turn right as soon as possible and let him pass." Answer A was really the best choice.



# APGFCU employee wins dance competition

## Raises more than \$64,000 for Center for the Arts



Photo by ELLEN PONS PHOTOGRAPHY  
Claudia Holman, an Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union employee, dances with Tom Rzepnicki, co-owner of “Dancing with Friends,” a dancing studio in Bel Air, during “Dancing for the Arts,” a fundraiser held at the Residents’ Club in Bulle Rock Nov. 22. The fundraiser raised more than \$64,000 to benefit the Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a regional arts center in Harford County.

Story by  
**RACHEL PONDER**  
APG NEWS

An Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union employee and one of Harford County’s “Stars” won the Judge’s Choice award at the inaugural “Dancing for the Arts” fundraiser held at the Residents’ Club at Bulle Rock Nov. 22.

Claudia Holman, a business development director for APGFCU who won the Judge’s Choice Award, said that when she was asked by a friend to participate in the fundraiser, she thought it would be a fun way to raise money for a good cause.

“When I was asked to participate, I said, ‘Of course!’” Holman said. “I believe that Harford County will greatly benefit by having the Center for the Arts. This will be a wonderful thing for the entire

community.”

The fundraiser, which was fashioned after the hit television show, “Dancing with the Stars,” raised more than \$64,000, to benefit the Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a regional arts center in Harford County.

The program featured 11 Harford County “Stars” who showcased their ballroom dancing talents, after training with a professional dancer for several months.

According to the Center for the Arts’ Web site, [www.centerfortheartsharford.org](http://www.centerfortheartsharford.org) the new center will be used for many purposes.

“The goal is to establish a center in Harford County, accessible to all, to nurture art, artists, and community by providing a broad range of creative and collaborative experiences through quality

arts education, presentation and exhibit in the disciplines of music, dance, theater, and the visual and literary arts,” the Web site stated.

Holman added that she thinks that it is important for children to be exposed to the arts, which is one of the reasons she decided to support the new center.

“An appreciation for the arts is very important in everyone’s life, because it touches us somehow, someday,” Holman said. “Unfortunately for financial reasons, the school system has had to make cutbacks on music and art appreciation, which is why I think we especially need a place where children and families can come to enjoy and appreciate art and music.”

Holman said that in late August the dancers started practicing an hour and a half every week at “Danc-

ing with Friends,” a ballroom dancing studio in Bel Air owned by Tom Rzepnicki and Debbie Howley. “I practiced with Tom and Debbie and Tom’s wife, Shara [Rzepnicki]. Other professional dancers associated with the Dancing with Friends Studio were also involved in helping train the other dancers.” They included Stephen Franzoni and Bob Kuzyk. Also Froilan Mate, from Arthur Murray Studios in Towson trained and danced with Mary Martin, one of Harford’s Stars.

Holman said that she appreciates how generous the professional dancers were with their time. “They were totally focused on the dancers, and had no intention to promote themselves. They were willing to add extra practice times if we needed it. They gave all of their time and all of their talent, and did not receive anything monetarily, just the joy of being with all of us. They were wonderful; they worked with our schedules and were flexible.”

Holman said that Rzepnicki helped her come up with a song and a few concepts for her performance. She said that she chose to do a cha-cha to “Buttons” by the Pussycat Dolls because it is entertaining and fun.

“Tom wanted to make sure I was comfortable with the song he chose. He said, ‘when you perform you need to bring it!’ I wanted something lively and upbeat, to entertain and to have fun doing it.”

Holman added that Rzepnicki also worked to come up with a concept for her costume for the performance. “It was made to look like it was a cross between Cleopatra and a harem girl. Ann Wagner (a professional seamstress) made the costume for me,” she said.

Holman said that she feels that all of the contestants deserve recognition for their hard work.

“I felt honored [to win the competition], but at the same time I felt, that all the dancers excelled in what they did,” Holman said. “If I had my druthers, all the dancers would have

received a trophy. I felt like a proud mother watching them. They were just awesome.”

Holman added that she felt the contestants made great progress in the months leading up to the event. Holman said that she had practiced ballet when she was growing up, but had no ballroom dancing experience.

“Not many contestants had a background in dancing,” Holman said. “Only one out of the eleven of us had any type of former ballroom dancing experience.” Holman said that despite the contestant’s lack of ballroom experience, they were enthusiastic about the cause and were willing to learn. As a result, the event was sold out with more than 260 in attendance.

Starting in February 2009, and continuing in March and April, the public will be able to view the dancer’s performance at the competition and vote online at [www.centerfortheartsharford.org](http://www.centerfortheartsharford.org) for their favorite Harford County Star. Each vote is \$1. The star receiving the most votes will receive the People’s Choice Award in May. Funds raised through voting will be donated to the Center for the Arts and are tax deductible.

Sallee Kunkel Filkins, Executive Director of the Center for the Arts commented about “Dancing for the Arts” saying that, “An exciting aspect of the event was that the “Stars” represent our partners in the community such as the Harford County Government, Harford Community College, Harford County Public Library, and the business community.” she said. “We really appreciate the time that they devoted to dancing lessons, practice sessions, rehearsals and raising money for the event. All of the dancers are very busy community leaders who were very generous with their time and talents. It was a big commitment on their part.”

**Harford County Stars included:**

- David Craig, Harford County Executive

- Jim LaCalle Harford Community College President,
- Lynne LaCalle, HCC’s Associate Vice President for Student Development.
- Betty Ward, Community Volunteer
- Will Nori, Vice President for Clark Turner Signature Homes,
- Audra Caplan, Director of the Harford County Public Library
- Mary Chance, Harford County Director of Community Services
- Eric McLauchlin, Attorney at Gessner, Snee, Mahoney & Lutche P.A.
- Stephanie Bradshaw, Baltimore Magazine’s Best Dressed Fashionista 2008
- Mary Martin, of Forest Hill Industrial Airpark, Inc.

Holman said that despite the slow economy, she predicts that Harford County residents will support an art center.

“The economy is always a factor but I believe that Harford County is full of generous people who would support this project any way that they can,” Holman said.

Filkins said that the feasibility study and business plan demonstrate that an arts center will be a major economic engine helping Harford County’s economy. She added that the Center for the Arts is a private-public joint venture. She said that the Center for the Arts has been in contact with more than 200 businesses, many of which have indicated their desire to utilize the facility not only for arts events but for business meetings and special events.

The Center for the Arts, offices are currently located in Bel Air at Tudor Hall, the historic Victorian Gothic property built by the Booth family, and purchased by Harford County Government several years ago. Filkins said that the location for the new Center for the Arts will be selected and announced by spring 2009, with the goal to have the new center open to the public by 2013.

To find out more about the Center for the Arts, go to <http://www.centerfortheartsharford.org>.

## Decide

From front page

make decisions based upon accurate information rather than rumors.

Next on the chart was making a list of pros and cons and putting together a personal timeline. Via encouraged members of the workforce to develop a personal plan and a back-up plan.

“Circumstances change,” he said. “A death, illness, divorce---these things can change everything.”

Via noted that once individuals have developed their plans, they should speak with their supervisors, and talk not only with their Families, but with others they trust before making their decisions.

He stressed that following these steps to make a decision will go a long way toward helping to “avoid increased personal and professional turbulence, stress and uncertainty for you and your Families.”

Via also emphasized that the command mission of maintaining and sustaining support to the Warfighter ultimately will benefit from members of the Army Team C4ISR workforce making sound and timely decisions regarding their own future plans.

He said that CECOM LCMC and Army Team C4ISR will continue to

focus on retaining and recruiting, as well as relocating, as many members of the workforce as possible to Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Army Team C4ISR senior leadership also will continue to seek out ways to mitigate professional and personal turbulence for personnel who choose to move, and to assist as much as possible in the transition for employees who choose not to relocate to APG.

In his briefing, Via noted that approximately 1,600 Army Team C4ISR personnel had visited the Maryland and New Jersey One Stop Career Centers to date; that approximately 2,100 personnel had already taken advantage of bus tours of the APG area and surrounding communities; and that more than 4,200 RED (Relocation Information Entitlements Decision Making) Box information containers had been distributed.

The latest workforce survey cites 42 percent of Army Team C4ISR personnel who responded now indicating they’re willing to relocate, while 25 percent say they will not relocate, and 33 percent say they’re still undecided.

Via said important information related to the relocation will continue to be posted on the Knowledge Center and in the bi-monthly BRAC pullout pages of this newspaper, as well as in the weekly online edition of The Monmouth Message.

Michael Vetter, the CECOM LCMC director of Logistics and Engineering, followed Via’s presentation with an update on the construction at APG, including a virtual tour of the campus with a view of what the interior of some of the buildings will look like.

He pointed out that the “skin” or exterior of the buildings to be constructed as part of Phase I of the Army Team C4ISR campus is set for completion by the end of February 2009 when work on the interiors will begin in earnest. He said the construction is on schedule and “moving along sharply.”

During a portion of the BRAC update labeled “Taking Care of People,” Deborah Devlin, CECOM LCMC G1, said there have been 423 applications by early relocation volunteers for APG for 2009 and that management has selected 396.

She noted that, as of the BRAC update briefing, 183 personnel had accepted offers to relocate to APG in 2009. Devlin added that the command will continue to provide support to those volunteers including a Sponsorship Program and information from Maryland One Stop Offices.

The current plan is to issue Permanent Change of Station orders by the end of January.

“Remember, do not incur any expenses or make any commitments until you receive signed and certified

PCS orders,” Devlin cautioned volunteers.

She said a survey will be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers Homeowners Assistance Program to determine if military service member and civilian employee homeowners’ homes have lost value as a result of the mandated Fort Monmouth closure and Army Team C4ISR mission realignment.

HAP, if approved could potentially, provide reimbursement for at least part of the loss when selling a home

under such conditions.

Devlin emphasized that participating in the survey is no guarantee the assistance program for homeowners will be approved by the Corps of Engineers for the Fort Monmouth area.

She also reported that the State of Maryland has advised they will honor some New Jersey licenses required for certain occupations, including barbers, certified public accounts, plumbers and more. For a complete list, go to <http://www.dllr.state.md/us/>

[license/license.shtml](#).

During his remarks, Via spoke of his recent visit to the U.S. Central Command theater in Southwest Asia. He indicated going there was like “touching home plate” for him as he saw first-hand Army Team C4ISR systems and products in operation and observed that everywhere he went, Soldiers appreciated them and asked for more.

“It is still a very dangerous place and ours continues to be a critical mission,” Via said.

## APG closing announcements

If the installation is closed, is experiencing a delay in opening or if liberal leave is in effect due to weather or other emergency situations, check for postings on the local television and radio stations, WAPG-TV Channel 21 (on Aberdeen Proving Ground) or call 410-278-SNOW (7669). A recorded telephone message will contain updated information and should begin at about 5 a.m.

Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name APG specifically.

For general information, call the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147.

Station	Frequency	Location
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WMAR-TV	Channel 2	Baltimore
WBFF-TV	Channel 45	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore



# Diners feast on holiday arts, crafts

Story and photos by  
**YVONNE JOHNSON**  
APG News

Along with a lunchtime meal, diners at Top of the Bay, Dec. 4, took in hundreds of gift ideas during the organizations' first Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.

Hobbyists, artisans and vendors offered an array of gift item displays in the club's main and upstairs ballrooms and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored a "Meet the Artist" gallery in the club's Regimental Room featuring Ben Michalski, a professional photographer who showcased his images of Aberdeen Proving Ground and Harford County landmarks.

More than 30 vendors with mostly one-of-a-kind crafts were on hand, according to Chris Lockhart of FMWR marketing.

"This is all to bring holiday cheer to Top of the Bay and give employees a chance to do some last minute holiday shopping," Lockhart said.

Hand made jewelry, Christmas decorations, customized pens, dolls and handbags, and duck decoys were just some of the items available. Some of the vendors included APG employees who put their hobbies to use.

Phyllis Krick of Krick Products and Creations took accessorizing to another level with her original creations of jewelry, cell phone straps, watches, key chains and rosaries, highlighted with gold, crystals, glass beads and gem stones.

Krick said her rosaries proved very popular.

"They take just two or three hours to make, and I will customize orders," she said.

APG News editor Debi Horne featured beaded and gemstone jewelry from her home business, "Bea-Dazzled" that she designs along with her aunt, Betty Shiner. Horne said that her craft began from a 30-minute class on a vacation cruise that turned into a passion.

"I took the craft class four years ago and from there I just started creating," she said. "It's also a real money saver. Now if I need a quick gift or have an outfit with nothing to go with it, I just make something for myself and my friends."

Horne donated 10 percent of her sales to the installation's Combined Federal Campaign.

"I know the economy is bad for many and the CFC Team has worked so hard to achieve the installation goal, I just figured my donation might help another organization achieve one hundred percent," she said. "The team can decide where to place the donation so it counts the most."

Other jewelry choices included Marcia Geno's M.J. Jewelry, which includes necklaces, earrings and other accessories made of precious gems and Swarovski crystals.

Geno said what started

out as a hobby has turned into a business.

"I just kind of looked at styles, saw what people were wearing and went from there," she said.

Whether searching for gifts or personal items, the show provided something for every interest.

A colorful display of customized pens, duck calls, fancy screw drivers and kaleidoscope eggs made up the display of David C. Hutchins. Hutchins said the pens were "real popular" and that they take about 45 minutes to make on a wood lathe.

"It started out simple enough and then turned into insanity," he said of his hobby.

Fans of the homespun look enjoyed the display of hand-made holiday kitchen towels, aprons, pillows and tree skirts by Sadie Hose of Bel Air. Hose, who quickly sold out of the tree skirts, said she's been designing and sewing for more than 20 years.

"My mother would make them and sell them at the Golden Age Club in Edgewood," she said, adding that when the work became too much for her mother, who passed away in 2003, she began making them for her. Retired for five years, Hose said she now sews full time when she's not volunteering at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center.

"It's relaxing; it makes people happy; and it's a nice way to remember my mother," she said.

For the fantasy lover, artist Susan Snodgrass provided fantasy figures such as mermaids and fairies mounted on geode crystals.

"Every piece is different and unique," Snodgrass said.

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum volunteers Jeanne and Carver Hiss provided duck decoys they hand-

carved themselves along with feather pins and other wearable art they designed.

Jeanne said that she's been carving for 26 years and some of her work is on display in the museum.

"They're talking about making a display case featuring women carvers because carvers are usually men," she said.

Other vendor displays included Creations by Katrina; Carpetbagger; and The Rustic Star.

### Ben Michalski

Michalski is an award-winning photographer and the creator of the digital photo serigraph. His art hangs in the governor's mansion and is featured in branches of Columbian Bank and Applebee's restaurants. A veteran of the Army and Navy, Michalski has photographed people, places and things in 12 different countries on three continents.

At Michalski's display, several commented that his photos were beautiful enough to be paintings.

"I just dodge it, smudge it and layer it until I get the effect I want; not unlike something an artist does," Michalski said.

Havre de Grace is one of his favorite sites to photograph, and he displayed several photos of the city's landmarks along with APG tanks and artillery. Michalski recently opened a studio in Havre de Grace and plans to open one in Baltimore.

Michalski is starting the second half of a project that involves following in the footsteps and shooting most of the same scenes as Ansel Adams.

"He's one of my inspirations," Michalski said of the photography pioneer. "I try to bring that out in my work - It's not about the photograph, it's about the picture."



A sassy, jewelry tree on a vendors table holds up colorful bracelets made of glass beads and gem stones during the Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at Top of the Bay Dec. 4.



A collection of Aberdeen Proving Ground armored vehicles highlights a photo collage by photographer Ben Michalski.



Heirloom Quality Dolls belonging to Grandma Pat of Havre de Grace are actually hand-made Victorian rag dolls.



This hand carved wooden pen, displayed by David C. Hutchins, was cut at angles from two types of wood and then glued together.



Betty Scott, an Information Technology specialist with the Directorate of Information Management, left, and Marcia Geno of M.J. Jewelry, right, admire one of several bracelets Geno included in her display.



These one-of-a-kind duck carvings by Jeanne Hoss cost from \$700 to \$900